

**HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
JUNE 1, 2011**

Town of Bedford
Bedford Town Hall
Selectmen's Meeting Room

PRESENT: William Moonan, Chairman; Karen Kalil-Brown, Clerk;
Carol Carlson; Lorrie Dunham

ABSENT: Alan Long; Kevin Latady

BUSINESS MEETING:

Bea Brown, 5 Great Road was present to discuss the removal of trees on her property. Ms. Brown explained that she lost a large branch off an apple tree and showed the Commission a photo of the 50 foot tall apple tree that is diseased and infested with ants. Another photo showed Ms. Brown standing next to the fallen branch indicating the size of the branch. Mr. Warrington, Bedford's Tree Warden has visited the property to look at the trees which include a maple and two oak trees. Mr. Moonan looked at the trees and came to the conclusion that the trees are in bad shape and could be dangerous if not removed. There are many more trees on Ms. Brown's property, so removal of these few would not be that noticeable. There are also arborvitae bushes in the front of the house.

Ms. Carlson asked if the Bedford Arbor Resources Committee needed to look at these trees. Mr. Moonan explained that he had spoken to Jaci Edwards (Chair of BARC) and she told him that BARC has no input on this particular situation. Ms. Carlson asked if Mr. Warrington would have to be contacted, and the response was that Mr. Warrington had been contacted and that Mr. Warrington had agreed that all but the maple tree in front of the house were problematic. Ms. Brown said that the tree service determined the maple tree to be in the worst shape.

Ms. Brown mentioned that a neighboring house within the Historic District had a lot of tree work done recently without permission from the HDC.

The Commission discussed whether or not there should be a public hearing regarding the trees on Ms. Brown's property and decided that since there is a danger involved, they would allow the removal of the trees without a hearing contingent upon receiving a letter from Mr. Warrington or an arborist.

MOTION:

Carol Carlson moved to approve the request by Ms. Bea Brown of 5 The Great Road to remove an apple tree, two oak trees and a maple tree as shown on Exhibit A, subject to the Historic District Commission receiving a written opinion addressed to the Chair by Mr. Warrington and / or an Arborist that they agree that the said trees should be removed.

Karen Kalil-Brown seconded the motion.

Voting in favor: Moonan, Brown, Carlson, Dunham.

Voting against: None

Motion carried: 4-0-0.

The Commission briefly discussed some recent information about the expansion of territory involving the National Register of Historic Places. The local Minuteman newspaper printed "expansion of the Historic District" in error.

Mr. Moonan read the emergency exit notice.

Ms. Karen Kalil-Brown recused herself from the following hearing as she and her husband are the applicants.

PRESENTATION: Carol Carlson read the notice of the hearing.

PETITION #009-11 – Tim and Karen Brown, 16 North Road for fence and landscaping.

Tim Brown provided an addendum and photos to add to the application. Mr. Brown explained that they would like to place a fence perpendicular to the 4 foot high stockade fence on Bedford Farms' property. The Brown's fence would have a flat top and be 16 feet wide with two 4' wide gates, and 4' tall. The gate hardware would not be visible, and the style of the fence does not have spaces in between the boards. It is similar to the neighbor's fence on the other side of the property.

MOTION:

Carol Carlson moved to approve the request by Tim and Karen Brown, 16 North Road, the 16 foot long fence, by 4 feet tall, as shown on Exhibit A, from the barn to Dalya's Restaurant fence (4 feet tall). The fence is to have a rounded flat top picket with cap to match the existing fence on the south side, made of cedar wood.

Lorrie Dunham seconded the motion.

Voting in favor: Moonan, Carlson, Dunham.

Voting against: None

Motion carried: 3-0-0.

Regarding the landscaping at 16 North Road; the post and rail and granite post fence showing in the photo from 1992 in the application fell down, and will not be replaced.

Mr. Brown showed the Commission photos of the Hurley's fence (2 Concord Rd) as an example of the granite post and wood rail fence he intends to put along the property line in the front of the house on North Rd. This fence will be placed approximately eleven feet from the street curb, allowing room for a possible future sidewalk. After this rail and granite fence is in place, there will still be space for people to walk on the grass and not in the street.

The granite post and wooden rail fence will be comprised of rough granite posts, 12 inches square, and 30 inches high. The wood to be unfinished pine.

MOTION:

Lorrie Dunham moved to approve the request by Tim and Karen Brown, 16 North Road, for a post and rail fence on front property line, with rough granite posts, 12 inches square, 30 inches high with unfinished pine wooden rails as shown on Exhibit B. Placement near property line shown on Exhibit B.

Carol Carlson seconded the motion.

Voting in favor: Moonan, Carlson, Dunham.

Voting against: None

Motion carried: 3-0-0.

Two more landscaping issues are a walkway and a tree. The walkway to be placed 6 feet in front of the front porch to be made of 12" x 12" or 12" x 16" bluestone, straight cuts made to curve toward the street. The stairs (two steps) will be either granite or bluestone. The walkway is to be approximately 3 feet wide. The photos provided show a grassy area in front of the house where the walkway will be placed.

MOTION:

Carol Carlson moved to approve the request by Tim and Karen Brown, 16 North Road, for a walkway from the main driveway across the front of the house, with approximately two steps down to the North side driveway. The walkway to be made of rectangular shaped bluestone, and two steps of granite or bluestone. Bluestone will be cut and butt up against each other as shown on Exhibit B.

Lorrie Dunham seconded the motion.

Voting in favor: Moonan, Carlson, Dunham. Mr. Brown showed the Commission photos of the Hurley's fence along the side of his property, explaining that they intend to place one rail from Hurley's fence along the property line in the front of the house by the street to define the property. This rail will be placed approximately eleven feet from the street, allowing room for a possible future sidewalk. The Browns have had the property surveyed to determine the property lines. After this rail and granite fence is in place, there will still be space for people to walk along the property on the grass.

Voting against: None
Motion carried: 3-0-0.

The Browns would like to plant a weeping cherry (ornamental) in the front yard tree by the new walkway. The tree will have a 2 to 3 inch caliper. The tree is such that it is topped and the branches hang down. The tree blossoms in the Spring, and is shown on Exhibit B.

MOTION:

Carol Carlson moved to approve the request by Tim and Karen Brown, 16 North Road, to plant a weeping cherry tree as shown on Exhibit B. Said tree to be between two and three inches in caliper.

Lorrie Dunham seconded the motion.
Voting in favor: Moonan, Carlson, Dunham.
Voting against: None
Motion carried: 3-0-0.

Lorrie Dunham moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 P.M.

Voting in favor: Moonan, Carlson, Dunham.
Voting against: None
Motion carried: 3-0-0.

William S. Moonan 7/6/11
William Moonan, Chairman Date

Respectfully Submitted by,

Beth Ryan